

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 14 (canceled).

- 1 **15.** (new) An apparatus for entering and exiting a spacesuit in
2 a spacecraft, said spacesuit (1) having a spacesuit
3 entrance and exit opening (2) in a back portion of said
4 spacesuit and a backpack (3) for opening and closing said
5 opening (2) of said spacesuit, said apparatus comprising:
6 a) a first sealing and interlocking subsystem (4)
7 operatively interposed between said spacesuit (1) and
8 a bulk head (5') in said spacecraft (S) for connecting
9 said spacesuit (1) to said bulkhead (5') in an
10 interlocking force transmitting fit,
11 b) a second sealing and interlocking subsystem (6)
12 operatively interposed between said backpack (3) and
13 said back portion of said spacesuit (1) around said
14 opening (2) for connecting said backpack (3) to said
15 spacesuit (1) in an interlocking and force
16 transmitting fit,
17 c) a laterally flappable decontamination chamber (7) into
18 which said backpack (3) fits,
19 d) a third sealing and interlocking subsystem (9)
20 operatively interposed between said spacesuit (1) or
21 backpack (3) and said decontamination chamber (7) for
22 connecting said spacesuit to said decontamination
23 chamber (7) in an isolating manner,

- 1 e) a fourth sealing and interlocking subsystem (12)
2 operatively interposed between said at least one
3 decontamination chamber (7) and said bulkhead (5') in
4 said spacecraft for connecting said decontamination
5 chamber (7) to said bulkhead (5') in an isolating
6 manner,
7 f) a first hinge (H) between said bulkhead (5') and said
8 decontamination chamber (7) for opening and closing a
9 hole (5A) in said bulkhead (5') by laterally flapping
10 said decontamination chamber (7) into an open position
11 or back into a closed position, and
12 g) a second hinge (H') operatively connecting said
13 backpack (3) for tilting said backpack (3) with said
14 decontamination chamber (7) laterally away from said
15 bulkhead (5') in unison with said decontamination
16 chamber (7) or tilting said backpack (3) separately
17 from said decontamination chamber (7).

1 16. (new) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said first sealing
2 and interlocking subsystem (4) is arranged radially
3 outwardly of said entrance and exiting opening (2) and
4 wherein said second sealing and interlocking subsystem (6)
5 is arranged radially inwardly of said first sealing and
6 locking subsystem.

1 17. (new) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said laterally
2 flappable decontamination chamber comprises an open side
3 surrounded by a chamber flange (7A), and wherein said third

4 sealing and locking subsystem (9) is arranged radially
5 inwardly of said chamber flange (7A) for connecting said
6 backpack (3) of said spacesuit to said decontamination
7 chamber (7) with an interlocking, force transmitting fit.

1 **18.** (new) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said fourth
2 sealing and locking subsystem (12) is arranged radially
3 outwardly of said chamber flange (7A) for connecting said
4 decontamination chamber (7) to said bulkhead (5') with an
5 interlocking force transmitting fit.

1 **19.** (new) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a
2 docking flange (10) framing said hole (5A) in said bulkhead
3 (5').

1 **20.** (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said first sealing
2 and locking subsystem (4) surrounds said docking flange
3 (10) radially outwardly of said docking flange (10).

1 **21.** (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said second
2 sealing and locking subsystem (6) is positioned radially
3 inwardly of said docking flange (10).

1 **22.** (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said docking
2 flange (10) comprises a ring portion (10A), a radially
3 outwardly extending flange portion connected to said ring
4 portion (10A) and facing said spacesuit (1), and a radially

5 inwardly extending flange portion connected to said ring
6 portion and facing said backpack (3).

1 23. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a seal
2 (S) between said docking flange (10) and a rim of said hole
3 (5A) in said bulkhead (5').

1 24. (new) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said bulkhead (5')
2 separates a living and working area (5) from an airlock or
3 protective sluice (11).

1 25. (new) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said
2 decontamination chamber (7) forms a door for said hole (5A)
3 in said bulkhead (5').

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]